

Message Text

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46

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAM-01

SAB-01 IO-10 EUR-12 OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 MC-02

ACDA-10 CIEP-02 EB-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

/102 W

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O R 121119Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7056

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BERUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 3654

E O 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, US

SUBJECT: ISRAELI PRESS ON FORD/RABIN MEETING

1. SUMMARY: ISRAELI WASHINGTON-BASED CORRESPONDENT JUN 12 REPORTED ISRAELI DISSAPPOINTMENT THAT PM RABIN IN FIRST MEETING WITH FORD DID NOT LEARN OF DETAILS OF FORD/SADAT MEETING IN SALZBURG. WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT FOLLOWING MEETING GENERALLY INTERPREETED AS SIGN OF PRESSURE ON ISRAEL TO MAKE MORE CONCESSIONS. POSSIBILITY OF THREE-YEAR INTERIM SETTLEMENT ACCOMPANIED BY BIG US/ISRAEL ARMS DEAL CITED BY SEVERAL PAPERS. END SUMMARY.

2. JERUSALEM POST (BLITZER) REPORTED THAT ISRAEL WAS "SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTED" THAT EGYPTIAN CONCESSIONS PREVIOUSLY UNKNOWN TO ISRAEL WERE NOT REVEALED AT FIRST MEETING.
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3. REFERENCE IN PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT TO DANGERS OF STALEMATE WAS REGARDED BY "OBSERVERS" AS FORM OF POSSIBLE PRESSURE AGAINST IAREL, PARTICULARLY IN VIEW OF INSERTIAN OF REFERENCE TO STALEMATE

IN "WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN JUST A FORMAL WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT."

4. HAARETZ (MARGALIT) REPORTED THAT "AMERICAN SOURCES" REGARD IT AS "NOT IMPOSSIBLE" THAT AT THEIR SECOND MEETING, FORD WILL TELL RABIN THAT EGYPT IS PREPARED TO COMMIT ITSELF TO THREE-YEAR INTERIM SETTLEMENT. ACCORDING TO AMERICAN COMMENTATORS, FORD BELIEVES THIS IS THE LEAST ISRAEL CAN ACCEPT, AND HAS BEEN PRESSING RABIN TO BE SATISFIED WITH IT, WHILE HINTING AT US READINESS TO AGREE TO A LARGE ARMS DEAL.

5. MARGALIT REPORTED THAT GAP BETWEEN US AND ISRAELI POSITIONS HAS NOT BEEN CLOSED, AND WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT ISSUED AFTER FIRST MEETING WAS REGARDED AS EFFORT TO GUIDE RABIN TOWARD FURTHER CONCESSIONS. GENERAL FEELING IN WASHINGTON IS THAT ISRAEL IS BEING PRESSED TO ACCEPT INTERIM SETTLEMENT BASED ON EGYPTIAN CONCESSIONS OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE AND A BIG US ARMS DEAL. FORD THINKS RABIN GOVERNMENT IS STRONGER NOW AND CAN TAKE HARDER POLITICAL DECISION THAN IN MARCH.

6. IN SEPARATE ARTICLE MARGALIT REPORTED THAT "EXPERTS IN WASHINGTON" THINK THAT IF INTERIM SETTLEMENT IS ACHIEVED, ADMINISTRATION WILL ASK CONGRESS FOR BILLION AND ONE-HALF DOLLARS FOR AID TO ISRAEL, THE AMOUNT DEPENDING ON DIPLOMATIC PROGRESS. AMERICAN SOURCES IN WASHINGTON CONTINUE TO BE INCLINED TO EXUDE OPTIMISM ABOUT CHANCES FOR SETTLEMENT.

7. MARGALIT REPORTED THAT RABIN HAD BEEN PREPARED FOR US PRESSURE IN FIRST MEETING AND HOPED HE WILL BE ABLE TO MENTION ISRAEL'S ARMS REQUEST
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AT SECOND MEETING.

8. DAVAR (BARNEA) REPORTED THAT ISRAELI HOPES THAT US WAS KEEPING EGYPTIAN CONCESSIONS IN RESERVE FOR THE MEETING HAVE BEEN DISAPPOINTED. "EITHER FORD AND KISSINGER HAVE NO RABBITS IN THEIR HATS, OR THE ADMINISTRATION, FOR REASONS OF ITS OWN, PREFERS TO PULL THEM OUT LATER IN THE TALKS OR AFTER THEY ARE OVER."

9. BARNEA ALSO CITED WHITE HOUSE STATEMENT AS EVIDENCE THAT FIRST ROUND OF TALKS HAD BEEN DIFFICULT FOR ISRAEL.

10. YEDIOT (KIWITY) REPORTS ON MEETING FOLLOWED
SAME LINE AS OTHER PAPERS. HOWEVER, IT NOTED THAT ACCORDING
TO RELIABLE SOURCES, FORD WAS PLEASED WITH MEETING AND
"FOUND A FAIRLY BROAD BASIS TO ENABLE THE US MEDIATION
TO BE RESUMED."
VELIOTES

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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Disposition Event:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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